TO: HALVERSON (from HALVERS)

Kennedy Death Theory Attacked

Disinformation from The Sunday Oklahoman.

date unknown

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. (Reuter) — The home movie showing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy reveals that he was hit in the head by a shot from the rear, not from the front as the proponents of various assassination theories claim, a researcher said Saturday.

University of Rhode Island scientist Kenneth Rahn says his frame-by-frame analysis of the dramatic film showed that at the instant Kennedy was hit in the skull, a moment marked by the cloud of blood that appears around the face, the president's head has snapped forward by 2½ inches.

It is not until a fraction of a second later, after the bullet passed through Kennedy's skull, that the president began to lurch backward and to the right.

That movement has convinced many people the fatal shot must have come from the grassy knoll to Kennedy's right.

But Rahn, who became intrigued by the assassination movie after watching Oliver Stone's controversial film "J.F.K.," said the laws of physics make it impossible for a bullet to move a target after the bullet has finished passing through.

"There's no doubt that Oliver Stone believes (that the fatal shot came from the front) and now there's no doubt he blew it big time," Rahn said.

Kennedy's backward lurch doesn't begin until about one-tenth of a second after the bullet passed through his head, a delay consistent with the time it would take for reflexes to make his body jump back involuntarily, Rahn said.

The idea that the backward lurch must have been caused by a shot from the front has been a linchpin in most of the conspiracy theories criticizing the conclusion of the Warren Commission, which ruled that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman who fired all of the shots that struck the president.

The other linchpin in conspiracy theories is that an earlier shot, which struck the president through the throat, seemed to have taken an improbable route when it passed through then-Texas Gov. John Connally as well.

However, computer simulations have shown that the bullet could have traveled in a straight line if Kennedy had been leaning forward and Connally was looking back over his right shoulder.

Rahn said that because so many conspiracy theories have relied on the idea that Kennedy was killed by a shot from the front, the forward snap of Kennedy's head kills most of those theories.